

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

On page 13, lines 1-16, please amend the paragraph as follows:

The physical properties of the vulcanized natural rubber of the present invention are no different from those of the conventional natural rubber, and compositions comprising the natural rubber of the present invention and various synthetic rubbers also show excellent vulcanized rubber properties. As the synthetic rubbers, all rubbers which can be blended with the conventional natural rubber, can be used. Illustrative examples thereof include ~~SBR, NBR, BR, IR, EPR, EPDM and IIR~~ styrene butadiene rubber (SBR), acrylonitrile butadiene rubber (NBR), polybutadiene rubber (BR), synthetic polyisoprene (IR), ethylene propylene rubber (EPR), ethylene propylene diene monomer rubber (EPDM) and isobutylene isoprene rubber (IIR). It has been confirmed that the vulcanization physical properties of rubber compositions comprising the natural rubber of the present invention and these synthetic rubbers are comparable to or better than those of rubber compositions comprising the conventional natural rubber and these synthetic rubbers and that the saponification according to the present invention does not affect the vulcanized rubber properties of the rubber compositions.